Tibbati Deers

†5162. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) names of the places in India where Tibbati deers (Cheeru) are found alongwith their numbers;

(b) whether it is fact that said deers are being hunted on a large scale for smuggling of their skin; and

(c) the effective steps taken by Government to arrest the poachers and to take stem action against them alongwith details of effective steps, if any, taken for protecting the deers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DJJLIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) In India, the presence of the Tibetan antelope has been reported from the State of Jammu and Kashmir, where it occurs in areas of Ladakh bordering Tibet. No scientific census has been conducted in the recent years for Chiru. However, the census conducted in 1996 by State Forest Department of Jammu and Kashmir and Wildlife Institute of India estimated their population between 250-300 individuals.

(b) No incident of poaching of Chiru for procuring its skin has been reported from Indian side of its range.

(c) The measures taken for protection of Chiru include:

1. Chiru has been listed in the Schedule I of the J&K Wildlife (Protection) Act and the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and therefore has been provided highest degree of protection under law.

2 A comprehensive programme has been initiated to rehabilitate Kashmiri Shatoosh artisans to wean them away from Shatoosh based trade.

Visit of Green Peace Team to Orissa

5163. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

SHRI B J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Team of Greenpeace India, an environmental organisation has visited Orissa with a view to educate the people and the industry on pollution control;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.